

# Nauclea

*Nauclea* is a genus of flowering plants in the Rubiaceae family. The species are evergreen trees or shrubs that are native to the paleotropics.<sup>[1]</sup> The terminal vegetative buds are usually strongly flattened.<sup>[2]</sup> The generic name is derived from the Ancient Greek words *naus*, meaning “ship” and *kleio*, meaning “to close”.<sup>[3]</sup> It refers to the resemblance of the cells of the capsule to a ship’s hull.<sup>[4]</sup>

## 1 Cultivation and use

*Nauclea diderrichii* is a large tree from West Africa that is widely cultivated elsewhere.<sup>[5]</sup> Its wood is resistant to borers and is used at harbors and in other places where wood is in constant contact with water.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2013, researchers reported that samples of *Nauclea latifolia* were found to contain the opioid analgesic tramadol.<sup>[6][7]</sup> However, the presence of the compound’s mammalian metabolites in the tree and surrounding bodies of water suggests that this is a consequence of environmental accumulation of tramadol after it is given to local livestock and that the tree is not synthesizing the compound.<sup>[8]</sup>

## 2 Taxonomy

*Nauclea* is a member of the tribe Naucleae and is sister to a clade consisting of *Burttidavya* and *Sarcocephalus*.<sup>[9]</sup> The current type species for the genus is *Nauclea orientalis*. Linnaeus originally named it *Cephalanthus orientalis* in the first edition of *Species Plantarum* but transferred it to *Nauclea* when he erected that genus in the second edition in 1762.<sup>[10]</sup>

## 3 Species

- *Nauclea diderrichii* (De Wild.) Merr.
- *Nauclea gageana* (King)
- *Nauclea gillettii* (De Wild.) Merr.
- *Nauclea latifolia* Smith
- *Nauclea officinalis* (Pierre ex Pit.) Merr. & Chun

- *Nauclea orientalis* (L.) L. - Common names: Kanlung, Bangkal, Leichhardt Tree, Cheesewood, Yellow Cheesewood, Canary Cheesewood
- *Nauclea parva* (Havil.) Merr.
- *Nauclea robinsonii* Merr.
- *Nauclea subdita* (Korth.) Steud. - Common names: Bongkol, Bulubangkal
- *Nauclea tenuiflora* (Havil.) Merr.
- *Nauclea vanderguchtii* (De Wild.) E.M.A.Petit
- *Nauclea xanthoxylon* (A.Chev.) Aubrév.

## 4 References

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## 5 External links

- World Checklist of Rubiaceae

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